



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

More collaboration recommended to power up community energy

The Victorian Parliament's Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee has recommended community energy groups collaborate with renewable energy developers and local government to develop projects.

In its report tabled in Parliament today, the Committee found that community energy projects had a greater chance of success if community groups took advantage of the expertise, equity and economies of scale offered by developers or councils.

During its inquiry into community energy projects, the Committee heard from community energy groups across Australia, energy distributors and retailers, and government bodies.

"The Committee found there are opportunities for Victorian communities to develop mid-scale energy projects that can boost the local economy through job creation and local procurement," Committee Chair Mr Nazih Elasmr said.

"We met with many motivated and innovative community energy groups and visited some great projects that are running in Victoria. The volunteers we spoke with identified the benefits of these projects and ways to encourage their uptake."

The Committee also recommended that the Victorian Government establish a loan fund for community energy projects, work with the COAG Energy Council to enable favourable regulatory changes and expand the pilot Community Power Hubs program if it proves successful.

"Developing a community energy project requires technical, legal and financial skills and community volunteers asked for assistance in these areas through outreach services similar to the Community Power Hubs program," Mr Elasmr said.

The Committee also heard that the rules on electricity generation and supply need updating to respond to changing technologies and energy demand and new business models such as community energy projects.

"The Victorian Government has implemented some measures to encourage the uptake of community energy projects, and the Committee hopes its recommendations will provide added encouragement while also protecting energy supply and vulnerable consumers," said Mr Elasmr.

The report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

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